

Atty Dkt. No.: 10004031-2
USSN: 10/691,037

AMENDMENTS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and bonding the second layer to a first layer of resilient material, wherein said second layer is held in radial tension and wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the second layer is a resilient material.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and a third layer and bonding the second and third layers to opposite surfaces of a first layer of resilient material such that the bonded second and third layers are under tension, wherein said second and third layer are held in radial tension and wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers prior to and during bonding to the first layer.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the tension is applied by pulling on the second and third layers.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers by chemical or thermal shrinkage after bonding to the first layer.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein after bonding to the first layer, each of the second and third layers are under a tension of between 5 to 1000

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newton/m.

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 20 wherein each of the second and third layers comprise a resilient material.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein each of the first, second and third layers comprise a resilient polymer.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein each of the first, second and third layers has a thickness of less than 10 mm.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein after bonding to the second and third layers and third layers.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim 8~~ Claim 16 wherein the first layer is held in a compression of between 5 to 1000 newton/m.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 24 wherein the compression is applied to the first layer after bonding to the second and third layers, by chemical or thermal expansion of the ~~third~~ first layer.

Please add the following new claim:

27. (New) A method according to Claim 24 wherein the compression is applied to the first layer after bonding to the second and third layers, by pre-chilling the first layer or by chemical means.